

service; we are bound by treaty to Spain not to send more than a single sixty-gun ship into the Mediterranean, and I fancy, as matters stand, we shall as soon take a bear by the tooth as infringe an iota of that treaty.

What invaluable possessions then are Gibraltar and Minorca, Port Mahon, and the Mole at Gibraltar; a safe asylum for Admiral Mann, and two or three frigates. I understand that a squadron is destined for the protection of our settlements in the East-Indies, where, at present, we have only two ships of the line, and two or three frigates. This great branch of our commerce seems to have been neglected in the same manner as the West-Indies. The favourite project, the conquest of America, seems to have absorbed every other concern. Before Sir Edward Hughes arrives in the East-Indies, it is highly probable we may have little left there to protect. The French have been long accumulating a force at the Mauritius. Their plan is to attack our settlements, or else, as an Honourable Gentleman asserted in the House of Commons,

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